

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 FTC-01 IGA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01

PRS-01 /111 W

-----201528Z 112522 /43

R 200957Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6936

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSS: EALR, ETRD, BTIO, SA

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

REF BAGHDAD 68

1. IN CONTRAST TO IRAQI REACTION, SAUDIS HAVE BEEN SLOWLY

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BUT STEADILY COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE REALITIES OF U.S.

ANTI-BOYCOTT ACTIONS BY SHOWING, PRIVATELY OF COURSE, A

TENDENCY TO MODIFY BOYCOTT LANGUAGE AND ACCEPT POSITIVE

STATEMENTS ON DOCUMENTS. THIS HAS BEEN LOW-KEYED AND

THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN ARE THOSE WHICH ARE

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SAUDI LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

2. PRESS EDITORIALS ADAMANTLY STATE SAG RIGHT TO HAVE AND TO ENFORCE A LEGITIMATE BOYCOTT. SAUDIS, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, HAVE REMOVED NECESSITY FOR RELIGION NOTATION ON US VISA APPLICANTS, AND THERE IS AN ON-GOING DIALOGUE WITH TREASURY REGARDING WORDING OF L/C'S, CONTRACTS AND TENDERS. US FIRMS NEGOTIATING CONTRACTS TELL US THEY HAVE OPPOSED BOYCOTT RESTRICTIVE STATEMENTS AND THAT SAUDIS HAVE SHOWN SOME REASONABLENESS.

3. IT IS BECOMING CLEARLY APPARENT TO US THAT IT IS LEAST OF SAUDI DESIRE TO BREAK ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL TIES WITH THE U.S. THEY WISH TO MAINTAIN THESE WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE AMERICAN LACKEYS TO THEIR "ARAB BROTHERS". THE SNOW-BALLING OF LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS IN THE U.S., HOWEVER, MAY REACH THE POINT WHERE SAUDIS WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE TO GO ALONG WITH THE RADICALS, LIKE IRAQ. THE SAUDIS, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, FEEL THAT EVERY NEW REGULATION OR LAW ISSUED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR STATES, WHICH THEY REGARD AS PADDING TO BASIC U.S. LAWS ON TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND DISCRIMINATION, ARE DIRECTED MAINLY AGAINST THEM.

PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA00482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0938
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770134/aaaabdcsl.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09f007d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BAGHDAD 68
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3550128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, BTIO, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09f007d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009